

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1       Claim 1 (original): A communications method, comprising:  
2                    detecting when a call to a telephone number goes unanswered;  
3                    determining if the unanswered call is from a member of a group  
4                    identified in a stored set of information associated with the called telephone number;  
5                    and  
6                    when it is determined that the calling party is a member of the group  
7                    identified in said stored set of information:  
8                            presenting the calling party with a list of other members  
9                            of said group who have provided telephone numbers for contact  
10                            purposes;  
11                            receiving information from the calling party identifying  
12                            one or more members of the group who are to be included in a  
13                            conference call; and  
14                            initiating a conference call to any group members  
15                            identified by the received information.

1       Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of initiating a conference  
2       call includes placing calls to at least two group members using telephone numbers  
3       corresponding to said two group members obtained from said stored set of  
4       information.

1       Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2, further comprising:  
2                    connecting said unanswered call to a telephone switch peripheral  
3                    device when it is determined that the unanswered call is from a member of the group  
4                    identified in the stored set of information; and  
5                            wherein the step of presenting the calling party with a list of other  
6                            members of said group includes operating said peripheral device to play a

7                   message to said calling party including the names of other members of said  
8                   group who have provided telephone numbers.

1                   Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of playing  
2                   messages from multiple members of said group to the calling party prior to initiating  
3                   said conference call.

1                   Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4,  
2                   wherein said step of initiating a conference call includes operating said  
3                   peripheral device to initiate calls to any group member identified by the  
4                   received information.

1                   Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
2                   detecting when a call initiated to a group member identified by the  
3                   received information is answered; and  
4                   bridging the answered call with the call from the calling party.

1                   Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the step of determining if the  
2                   unanswered call is from a member of a group identified in said stored set of  
3                   information associated with the called telephone number includes:  
4                   comparing a calling party telephone number obtained using automatic  
5                   number identification information to a list of telephone numbers corresponding to the  
6                   members of said group.

1                   Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 2,  
2                   wherein the step of detecting when a call to a telephone number  
3                   goes unanswered includes operating a telephone switch to provide call termination  
4                   information to a service control point; and

5                   wherein the step of determining if the unanswered call is from a  
6 member of a group identified in said stored set of information associated with the  
7 called telephone number includes:

8                   operating the service control point to compare a number obtained from  
9 the calling party to a list of identification numbers corresponding to the members of  
10 said group.

1                   Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
2                   maintaining said set of stored information in a location accessible to a  
3 telephone switch peripheral device;  
4                   operating said telephone switch peripheral device to receive  
5 information updating said stored information;  
6                   generating an E-mail message including at least some of the received  
7 information used to update said stored information; and  
8                   transmitting the generated E-mail message to at least one member of  
9 said group.

1                   Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9,  
2                   wherein said step of operating said telephone switch peripheral device  
3 to receive information includes operating said telephone switch peripheral device to  
4 receive a call from a member of said group.

1                   Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 10,  
2                   wherein said received information includes a spoken message; and  
3                   wherein the step of generating an E-mail message includes:  
4                   i) performing a speech recognition operation on the spoken message;  
5                   and  
6                   ii) incorporating at least some text generated by said speech  
7 recognition operation into said E-mail message.

1       **Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 9,**  
2                   **wherein said step of operating said telephone switch peripheral device**  
3                   **to receive information includes operating said telephone switch to receive an**  
4                   **emergency contact telephone number corresponding to a member of said group via**  
5                   **the Internet.**

1       **Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein the step of generating an E-**  
2                   **mail message includes:**  
3                   **incorporating the received emergency contact telephone number into**  
4                   **said E-mail message.**

1       **Claim 14 (currently amended): A communications system, comprising:**  
2                   **a telephone switch for receiving calls directed to a subscriber**  
3                   **telephone number;**  
4                   **a peripheral device coupled to said switch including:**  
5                    i. **circuitry for accessing a set of information corresponding to**  
6                   **the subscriber telephone number, the set of information including a list**  
7                   **of telephone numbers corresponding to a group of individuals**  
8                   **associated with said subscriber telephone number;**  
9                    ii. **circuitry for playing a message to a calling party who made**  
10                   **an unanswered call to the subscriber telephone number, the message**  
11                   **including the names of the group members who have included contact**  
12                   **telephone numbers in said set of information;**  
13                    iii. **call conferencing circuitry coupled to said telephone switch**  
14                   **for placing calls to members of said group selected by the calling party**  
15                   **and for bridging said calls to the call placed by the calling party to the**  
16                   **subscriber telephone number when said calls are answered; and**

17                   a service control point coupled to said telephone switch including  
18                   control logic for instructing said switch to connect an unanswered ~~to~~ call directed to  
19                   said subscriber telephone number to said peripheral device.

1           Claim 15 (original): The system of claim 14, further comprising:  
2                   means for allowing a member of said group to update an emergency  
3                   contact telephone number via the Internet; and  
4                   means for generating an E-mail message notifying at least one member  
5                   of the group when an emergency contact telephone number is updated.

1           Claim 16 (original): The system of claim 14, wherein the peripheral device further  
2                   comprises:

3                   means for receiving a call from a member of said group seeking to  
4                   update an emergency contact telephone number stored in said set of information; and  
5                   means for generating an E-mail message notifying at least one member  
6                   of the group when an emergency contact telephone number is updated by a received  
7                   telephone call.

1           Claim 17 (original): The system of claim 14,  
2                   wherein said set of information is stored in said peripheral device; and  
3                   wherein a duplicate copy of at least some information in said set of  
4                   information is stored in the service control point.

1           Claim 18 (currently amended): A communications method comprising:  
2                   storing a set of information including a list of members of a group  
3                   associated with a telephone number who may be contacted when a call to said  
4                   telephone number goes unanswered, the set of information including for each group  
5                   member who may be contacted, a contact telephone number;

6                   detecting when a call to the telephone number associated with said  
7 group goes unanswered;

8                   presenting the calling party placing the unanswered call with a list of  
9 group members who have contact telephone numbers stored in said set of  
10 information;

11                  receiving information from the calling party indicating the group  
12 member or members who which the calling party would like to contact; and

13                  initiating a conference call using at least one contact telephone number  
14 obtained from the set of stored information corresponding to a group member  
15 indicated by the received information.

1        Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of:

2                  providing the calling party with stored messages corresponding to at  
3 least some of group members who have contact telephone numbers stored in said set  
4 of information.

1        Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 18, wherein the step of initiating a  
2 conference call includes the steps of:

3                  placing separate calls to at least two members of said group using  
4 contact telephone numbers obtained from the set of stored information;

5                  detecting when a placed call is answered; and

6                  bridging each answered placed call with the call from the calling party  
7 to establish a conference call.

1        Claim 21 (currently amended): A digital storage medium, comprising:

2                  a first set of stored information for providing a communications  
3 service, the set of stored information including:

4                  i) call process instructions responsive to an indication of a non-  
5                  answered call.

1 Claim 25 (original): The digital storage medium of claim 24,

2 wherein the first set of stored information further comprises, for each  
3 of said plurality of members in said list:  
4 a personal identification number.